

Phelps said, "Whether it is true-form country, contemporary, rock, children's music, classical, rhythm and blues or even Southern Gospel, he's the very best at bringing the best in music of any class."

When the new \$37 million Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opened May 17, 2001, Ron was honored to be the first recording pianist/arranger to be included in the museum's permanent tribute to studio musicians. One of his famous keyboards and some of his hit arrangements are on display there. He is . . . "One of the major creative forces behind an amazing list of hit records and millions of record sales."

**BURNHAM FILE COMPANY 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2002*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Burnham Fire Company for their 100th Anniversary and to thank them for their service and dedication to their community.

The Burnham Fire Company was started in September 1902 due to an overwhelming need for fire protection in their community. Until this time, the community relied on nearby cities whose fire departments could not respond as rapidly as needed due to the distance they had to travel. The company in Burnham was assembled of volunteers, a hand pulled hose cart, and a motto that described with incredible foresight what personal sacrifices must be made to be fire fighters. That motto is "Semper Puratus," which means "Always Ready."

Since the tragedy that befell this nation on September 11th, America has rediscovered her many heroes. Heroes come from all walks of life and display every day how they, like the Burnham Fire Company, follow the motto "Semper Puratus." They are the men and women that are always ready to put themselves at risk for the greater good of others. Volunteers who are always ready to unselfishly give of their time to serve their communities. Individuals who are always ready to contribute to the success of the team rather than striving for personal glory.

Burnham Fire Company still largely consists of a volunteer work force. These men and women are well trained and equipped, providing exceptional service to a community that is proud of the job they have been doing for the past 100 years. I would like to again congratulate them on their 100th Anniversary and thank them for all their hard work and service.

**TRIBUTE TO SUSAN HIRSHMANN**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 22, 2002*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Hirshmann as she gets ready to leave her post as the chief of staff to House Majority Whip TOM DELAY. Susan has proven

to be invaluable and a trusted employee, friend and ally.

Susan Hirshmann is a remarkable individual who has become one the most important and influential women on Capitol Hill. She is highly respected by all who know her; and her comprehensive political grasp and policy expertise have set her apart as one of the greatest strategists in Washington. Susan has been an indispensable asset to Majority Whip's Office and the entire Whip organization.

For five years, she has been an advisor and top staffer, as well as a trustworthy ally to those who have worked with her.

Her intelligence and skill are complemented by a great sense of humor, which has made her contribution to this institution all the more praiseworthy.

We will all miss Susan, but we will always remember her hard work and steadfast devotion to this institution and her country.

**JACK H. BACKMAN**

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2002*

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, Massachusetts suffered a great loss. Indeed, when Jack Backman died, the world lost a man who was as fiercely dedicated to the cause of social justice as anyone of whom I have ever known.

My association with Jack Backman began in January 1973, when I became a freshman Member of the Massachusetts Joint Legislative Committee on Social Welfare, of which he was the Senate chair. I was proud to work under his leadership in those years for policies that would preserve some minimally decent life for the least fortunate among us. I have never worked with an elected official more willing to follow where his conscience led him with no regard whatsoever for electoral consequences than Jack Backman. And to my pleasant surprise and often to the chagrin of others, it turned out that when voters were presented with an example of someone prepared to do exactly that, they responded in a favorable way. Jack Backman genuinely brought out the best in democracy.

Mr. Speaker, in the Boston Globe for Tuesday, July 23, Renée Loth, Chief Editorial Writer, drew on her years as a reporter to give people a fair portrayal of this extraordinary man. I very much appreciate her doing this, in such a personal and compelling way, and because I think this model of how we Representatives should do our jobs ought to be widely shared, I ask that Ms. Loth's eloquent and accurate tribute to Jack Backman be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, July 23, 2002]

JACK H. BACKMAN

(By Renée Loth)

I LAST SAW Jack Backman at a forum on women's issues at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in May. I told him the state could use him back in the Senate, where he had served for 16 years, and I meant it. Jack H. Backman, who died Friday at age 80, represented not just his constituents in liberal Newton and Brookline but an entire population of otherwise disenfranchised citizens: prisoners, mental patients, street people, drug addicts.

Concern for the less fortunate has become so marginalized in state politics that social spending is usually connected to a "sympathetic" interest group, such as children, or politically sophisticated groups such as the elderly or women. But Backman, whether in flush times or lean, represented causes for which there was no obvious political reward. With characteristic clarity, he once said he found it "morally abhorrent" that the dispossessed had no voice in government. So he gave them one.

During Backman's tenure in the House and Senate (1965 to 1987), Massachusetts was at the national forefront of social reform, much of it tied to his efforts. His legislation created the first Office for Children, the first lead paint removal act, and a guaranteed annual income for the blind and the disabled. He helped fund and implement the groundbreaking consent decrees that U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro ordered to improve conditions at state facilities for the retarded. He led regular tours for freshman legislators of the state's maximum security prison in Walpole.

He pushed to pay welfare mothers a living wage, to divest state funds involved in the apartheid regime in South Africa, to deinstitutionalize juvenile justice, to give prisoners rights to education and training. He worked with a calm persistence some found maddening, using the Committee on Human Services (then called the Social Welfare Committee), which he chaired, as a pulpit for hearings on society's ills. He annually filed one bill—to appropriate \$100 million in housing construction funds—for at least 11 years, mostly to illustrate the housing woes of the poor and the elderly.

Philip Johnston served for eight years with Backman on the Human Services Committee. "He always took the view that it was his role and our committee's role to push the envelope on social justice," Johnston said. "He felt that someone needed to articulate what was right and let others decide what was feasible."

In 2002, elected officials are reviving the chain gang and charging prisoners a day rate for room and board. The Legislature just passed a budget that eliminates health care coverage for 50,000 low-income and disabled adults. We really do need Jack Backman—dreamer, believer, humanist, optimist—back at the State House. He was the rarest of politicians: someone whose heart was bigger than his ambition.

**HONORING MR. JOHN SEIGENTHALER OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE FOR A LIFETIME OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2002*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my good friend John Seigenthaler, a great American and an outstanding Tennessean, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Throughout his career, Seigenthaler has been a consistent leader on free speech and civil rights issues and a staunch defender of patriotism and democracy. Because of his reputation for offering sound advice, he has served as an advisor to key national leaders including President John F. Kennedy, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and numerous